

January 2012

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JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 16: MLK HOLIDAY, Town offices closed

Jan. 17: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

Jan. 31: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are in the Council Chambers in Building B at Town Hall.



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GARNER UPDATE

Vol. 37, No. 43



Members of the Rohrbaugh family pose by the new bridge over Mahler's Creek that is part of the Timber Drive extension, which opened to traffic on Dec. 13 following a ribbon-cutting ceremony and bridge dedication. The bridge was named in honor of former five-term Garner Mayor Don Rohrbaugh.

Timber Drive Extension Opens Ahead of Christmas

The N.C. Department of Transportation opened Timber Drive extension on Dec. 13, nearly 10 months ahead of schedule. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the completion of the new roadway and to name the new bridge over Mahler's Creek in honor of former five-term Garner Mayor Don Rohrbaugh, who was instrumental in the construction of both Timber Drive and its extension.

The dedication of the bridge in Rohrbaugh's honor was requested by the Garner Town Council, and the N.C. Board of Transportation passed

a resolution approving the naming.

The 1.4-mile Timber Drive extension connects N.C. 50 and White Oak Road. The extension was a major transportation priority for the Town and is expected to improve traffic flow into Garner and south Raleigh from Johnston County. In addition to the funding provided by NCDOT, the Town paid \$2.4 million for right-of-way acquisition and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.

The \$9.4 million project was constructed by the Fred Smith Co.



Look for a segment on the Timber Drive opening ceremony on the January episode of "Around Town," which can be seen on GTV11 or www.garnernc.gov.



A Message from the Mayor

Happy New Year, everyone.



To view performance footage of It's Showtime acts, visit the Town's YouTube channel.



Last year was such an exciting and eventful one for Garner. So many great things happened, from the community coming together to defeat the Red Route, to Scotty's crowning as the American Idol, to the Garner High football team's spectacular season. I'm confident that 2012 will bring more great things for Garner.

One area where Garner has made huge strides in the past year or so has been in the performing arts. We'll be picking up where we left off in 2011 with two fantastic series at the Garner Performing Arts Center. One is the Broadway Voices series, which the Town and Garner Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring. The next show is Susan Egan on March 3. The other series is called It's Showtime. It's a new offering at GPAC that kicks off on Feb. 3 with veteran down-home comedian James Gregory. The series continues in March with mentalist Craig

Karges and in April with a double billing featuring the John Brown Quintet and The Groove Shop. The series closes out in May with Elvis tribute artist Eddie Miles. For ticket information, visit www.garnerperformingartscenter.com.

There's also that other big annual performing arts event at GPAC, the Showcase of Talent, which will be on Feb. 11 this year. See you there.

Ronnie Williams

Ronnie Williams



Elected Officials Start New Terms

Jackie Johns (above), the top vote getter in the November Town Council election, was sworn in for a new term on Dec. 5 by N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. Johns was selected by fellow council members to be the Town's new mayor pro tem. Incumbents Buck Kennedy (top left) and Ken Marshburn (bottom left) also won new terms and were sworn in with Johns. Mayor Ronnie Williams, who was unopposed in the November election, was also sworn in on Dec 5.



New Projects Around Town

Here are some recent new and ongoing commercial construction projects or upgrades (information gleaned from December building permits):

- Azalea Building, LLC is constructing a new building valued at approximately \$1 million at 501 Health Park Drive.
- Duke Realty is doing an alteration valued at approximately \$221,000 at 950 N. Greenfield Parkway.
- Luca Services, LLC is doing an alteration valued at approximately \$140,000 at 240 New Fidelity Court.



The most recent Town Council meeting can be seen on GTV11 and at www.garnernc.gov.



UPCOMING EVENTS



‘Driving Miss Daisy’ Coming to GPAC

The Towne Players of Garner, one of the Triangle’s premier community theater groups, will present “Driving Miss Daisy” at the Garner Performing Arts Center on Jan. 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and also on Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. The theater group will also present “Father of the Bride” in April, “Willy Wonka, Jr.” in August and “Arsenic and Old Lace” in October. Season membership packages are on sale now. They are \$35 for adults, \$25 for students and seniors. Special packages including 16 flex passes and an opening-night reception with cast start at \$150. For more details, visit www.towneplayers.org or call 779-6144.



Cooks for Books Slated for Jan. 31

The second annual Cooks for Books, a fundraiser for Garner Educational Foundation literacy programs, will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31 from 5:30-8 p.m. at Garner TV and Appliance. Tickets (\$25 each or two for \$40) entitle the holder to complementary food provided by local eateries and one free drink as well as samplings from the competing celebrity cooks and dessert contestants. Tickets are being sold by GEF Board members. Information on being a sponsor or ticket information are available from event chair Amy White at singforhim@nc.rr.com.



Celebrate Groundhog Day at WDP

Will Mortimer the Groundhog predict six more weeks of winter, or is an early spring right around the corner? Discover Mortimer’s prediction for 2012. Join us at White Deer Park Nature Center and enjoy crafts, games, educational booths and, of course, Mortimer himself at this Groundhog Day celebration on Thursday, Feb. 2. The event begins at 10 a.m.; Mortimer will make his prediction at noon. Mortimer will be joined by other animal (and human) friends with the Chapel Hill-based group Creative Learning About Wildlife Species.



Park Offers Adult Beginner Bird-watching Classes

Join White Deer Park staff for coffee, muffins and bird watching. Each class will include indoor learning and outdoor practice to identify birds by plumage, silhouette, voice and habitat. Bring binoculars or borrow them from the park’s award-winning Nature Center. The class culminates in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Dress for the weather. Pre-registration is required. The cost for Town residents is \$8 and \$10 for non-residents. The classes will be Fridays, Feb. 3, 10 and 17 from 8-9:30 a.m. Register at www.garnernc.gov or in one of the Town’s staffed recreation facilities.



Comedian to Kick Off It’s Showtime Series on Feb. 3

Tickets are now on sale for the upcoming It’s Showtime series at the Garner Performing Arts Center. The series gets under way on Friday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. with veteran comedian James Gregory. Other shows include mentalist Craig Karges on March 17, a double billing featuring the John Brown Quintet and The Groove Shop on April 13 and Elvis tribute artist Eddie Miles on May 12. Season tickets to see all four shows are available for just \$70. Tickets to individual shows are also on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.garnerperformingartscenter.com or call GPAC at 661-4602.



Learn more about comedian James Gregory at his website, www.funniestman.com.



Garner PAAL to Launch New After-school Program



Watch a video segment on PAAL on the Town's YouTube channel.

The Garner Police Athletic and Activities League (PAAL) will launch a new after-school program beginning Jan. 12 at Avery Street Recreation Center. The program will run from 3-5 p.m. on Thursdays. All students who participate in the Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources after-school program are eligible to participate.

Volunteers from the Garner Police Department and



Garner Volunteer Fire and Rescue will participate in a program that will include athletics, mentoring, tutoring and other activities.

The Garner PAAL is a nonprofit organization that provides opportunities to enhance youth and family achievement while improving police-community relationships and reducing delinquency in the community. For more information, contact Sgt. Mike McIver at 772-8810.

Committee Plans MLK Celebration on Jan. 15

The Garner Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Celebration Committee will hold its second annual Celebration of the Life and Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 4 p.m. at the Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road).

The theme of this year's celebration is Unity + Diversity = Community. Keynote speaker will be Reuben Young, secretary of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.



Attendees are asked to bring canned goods and other non-perishable items to be donated to Garner Area Ministries.

For more information about the celebration, contact David G. Prince at prin1599@bellsouth.net.



Town Honors December Properties of the Month

The Town of Garner honored White Oak Crossing shopping center as the Commercial Property of the Month in December. Illinois-based Inland American Retail Management is property manager of the shopping center. Pictured (from left) are Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Johns; Council Member Kathy Behringer; Lili Paipa, property manager for Inland American Retail Management; Randy Olson, assistant vice president-property management for Inland American Retail Management; and Garner Neighborhood Improvement Manager Reginald Buie. Also, the Town named Susan Arnett of 596 Coalyard Drive in the Tunbridge subdivision as the December Residential Property of the Month winner.



Photo Contest Winners Named

The Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department recently announced the award recipients in the Fifth Annual Garner: Great Place to Be Photography Contest. First-place winners were Katie Farnug in the Garner category and Robert Flint (pictured above) in The Rest of the World category. Flint also took third place in The Rest of the World category. Lorna Brooks won second place in that category. Contest entries will be exhibited at the Garner Performing Arts Center through the end of January. The exhibit also includes works from area youth who attended the 2011 Digital Photography Summer Camp sponsored by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.



To learn more about the Properties of the Month program, email Reginald Buie at rbuie@garnernc.gov.